

Autism Committee Minutes February 13, 2009

Present: Lori Kay, ABXIII; Sabrina Daneshvar, Autism Therapies; Jenny Mays, SDUSD, Shelly Van Brabant, parent; Debbie Barrow, parent; Brian Herritt-Palomar College Police Department; Robbin Kulek, Area Board XIII; Tina Waters, CCC kids; Debbie Marshall, ABXIII

Meeting was called to order and introductions were made.

Sabrina Daneshvar provided an overview of the services Autism Spectrum Therapies offers and distributed brochures. Currently they are vendors of the Regional Center and several school districts.

Approval of January Minutes:

One correction was noted, Debbie Barrow's name was misspelled. Lori motioned to approve the minutes, but since the active membership was not finalize the vote was postponed until later in the meeting. Once the active membership was determined Lori Kay motioned to approve the minutes and all active members were in favor.

Review of Officer Training Program:

Brian Herritt spoke about the origins of his project and his desire to create a class to meet the need of educating law enforcement about individuals with autism/ASD. He has been working to create a comprehensive lesson plan for the POST training program. POST is a state training program for law enforcement. His presentation will be designed using a PowerPoint presentation and group/class discussion. He further explained the training would include scenarios with the outcome of each group to identify ways to handle the issues or situations presented.

Brian talked about the County's emergency preparedness program and the concept of identifying seniors and persons with disabilities via a data base. Brian also reported the sheriff has acknowledged a need for a system for identification of children with special needs. The system would create a data base of information including a photo, specific behavioral concerns and possible places a child might go if they are missing. Prior contact with law enforcement would also be included in the system, in an effort to alert the officer a need to modify his/her approach might be warranted.

A suggestion to include sensory issues (aversions/running toward moving vehicles) was made. The selling feature for this type of training is in the long run it can reduce law enforcements liability.

Brian offered to go out to the community to talk to school or other groups.

Brian also spoke about an invitation he had to attend a CPTN California Post Training Network meeting, March 10th -12th, to create a 2 hour training video that will address the various ways law enforcement can respond to situations involving persons with autism/ASD. There was discussion concerning the involvement of parents, service providers and the Area Board to ensure information used in the training is accurate and

well rounded. Robbin will follow up with the contact person at California POST Training Network to inquire about participation in the video development meeting.

Brian spoke about the need to have a team effort as the issue of training moves forward, and suggested having a representative from Law Enforcement on the Area Board or create a Special Needs Law Enforcement Liaison to the board. To create a more cohesive approach the group discussed the need to have a special needs law enforcement contact, a grant to create videos and assistance from experts in the field (Nora Baladerian, Dennis Debbaudt both of which have agreed to provide assistance).

Robbin stated she has spoken to Susan Madison, City of San Diego Disability Services Coordinator regarding law enforcement training and reported Susan would like the opportunity to meet and sit down to discuss the training.

Robbin expressed concern regarding subcommittee development and following a discussion the group decided not to divide up into subcommittees. The group decided to narrow the focus of work and to select one-two issues to tackle over the next six months or so. The two issues identified are transition and crisis.

Crisis- for individuals and families it is a safety issue- when a person is in a state of crisis there is nowhere to go and the few crisis placements that are available do not always have adequately trained staff or programs to work with children with autism/ASD. The group was in consensus there needs to be a temporary placement created that can handle individuals with significant behavioral challenges.

Project ideas that were discussed:

- Video- Training of law enforcement personnel*
- Seminar for parents*
- Crisis support mentor- could be done as a team of two- a parent and a person with training in behavioral issues.*
- Look into issues surrounding the development of a data base for law enforcement and emergency personnel to access in the event there is an emergency.*
- Issues surrounding adequate crisis facilities for ind. with autism and behavioral issues.*

Tina Waters, Jenny Mays, Shelly Van Brabant, Sabrina Daneshvar, Brian Herriot all requested to become active committee members. Lori made a motion to accept the new committee member, Robbin seconded, motion passed.

The next meeting will be spent working on objectives to assist in the development of an action plan for the committee.

Information on the status of the state budget was distributed.

*Resources were shared regarding upcoming trainings and events. IEP day will be held on May 30, Legislative Breakfast will be held at the Hilton on March 20th and TASK will be holding a free training on assistive technology in March.
The next meeting will be held at the Mission Valley Library at 12:30.*